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# Who Might Staff a Reagan Administration?

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*What would a Reagan Administration look like? Columnist Buchanan wrote this overview after a series of interviews with the people around the presidential candidate. Buchanan takes a look at people who would most likely be Reagan's top economics and defense advisers and the people who may well staff a Reagan White House.*

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For the CIA, Dr. Richard Pipes, the Harvard Kremlinologist, who headed up the "B" team that disputed official CIA conclusions regarding Soviet military power, is a name that regularly occurs in conversation.

For the National Security post, the inside track is given to Richard V. Allen, chief foreign policy researcher-writer in the Nixon campaign of 1968 and the Reagan campaigns of 1976 and 1980.

Allen is strongly pressing the view (shared by Dean Rusk) that the NSC should be diminished in size, and reduced in visibility; and the NSC chief should become a coordinator and traffic control officer for policy recommendations from State, Defense and CIA, not a regular visitor on "Meet the Press," nor a globe-traveling luminary sighting AK-47s down the Khyber Pass.

If named to the NSC, Allen would push for re-establishment of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and creation of an NSC Advisory Council, which would meet monthly and include foreign and defense policy specialists from the Kennedy and Johnson as well as the Nixon and Ford administrations.

There is here, incidentally, a delicious irony. In 1968, Allen was named Kissinger's first deputy at the

NSC, and Kissinger promptly did for his subordinate what Khrushchev did for Malenkov—exiled him to the bureaucratic counterpart of a power station in Kazakhstan.

With the exponential growth in conservative and neo-conservative think tanks, with Republicans having held executive power for eight of the last 11 years, Reagan—unlike Nixon who took over after eight years of Democratic rule—would have a vast pool of seasoned talents on which to draw.

Persons likely to appear at sub-Cabinet, service secretary and assistant secretary levels include former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Director Fred Ikle, and his deputy, John Lehman Jr.; Roger Fontaine, the Latin American specialist who was a Reagan second during the latter's debate with William Buckley on the Panama Canal treaties; Dr. Glenn Campbell of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace; Laurence Silberman, former acting attorney general and ex-ambassador to Yugoslavia; William R. Van Cleave, another member of Pipes' "B" team who heads the Institute for International Studies at the University of Southern California; Professors Richard Tucker of Johns Hopkins and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

From the ranks of recently retired military, two names are commonly mentioned: those of former Army Gen. Daniel O. Graham, former director Defense Intelligence Agency, and Edward Rowny who resigned as the Joint Chiefs' man at the SALT talks rather than endorse the treaty that emerged.

If there is a common characteristic of all the above, it is that they are hard-headed realists about ultimate Soviet ambitions and the present ominous power equation, and if there will be an operative rule in selecting Reagan's national security team, it will be that Jackson Democrats are welcome as advisers and appointees—but no McGovernites need apply.

If Reagan is sworn in, in January 1981, one is given to understand that the housecleaning at the NSC, State, Defense and the CIA would be instant and almost total.

Expansive titles aside, there are five slots on the White House chart whose occupants enjoy a special opportunity to exert influence and wield power: the national security adviser, the domestic council chief, the press secretary, the chief of staff and the assistant to the President for congressional liaison.

What provides the occupants of these offices their opportunity is that each becomes a "line officer," with a large personally chosen staff, whose position requires constant communication and contact with the Oval Office. In the White House, proximity is power.

Right now it is difficult to project a President Reagan's staff, since the practice in most presidential campaigns is a shakedown, after the primaries, and a beefing up of the "issues side" for the fall election.

But if Ronald Reagan were pressed to put together his top White House staff, as of today, it would probably look like this:

National Security Adviser: As mentioned above, while this office would be scaled down from the Kissingerian heights of 1972, it would likely belong to Richard V. Allen, former Kissinger deputy, who has assembled and is coordinating the work on an imposing list of scores of Reagan foreign and defense policy advisers.

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